

THE WILSON BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

Your editor wishes to stress the importance of the Annual Meeting, which is to be held, this year, on December 26th and 27th at the Field Columbian Museum, in Chicago. Matters of policy of the utmost importance to every member will be discussed, upon which decisions must be made. Your participation in the discussions and your vote in the final action to be taken are urgently needed. The program of papers and discussions of them will be well worth your while, and the opportunity to meet others who are working and thinking along the lines of your activities will be an inspiration and a help for the months that follow. If you cannot be present on the 26th come on the 27th. It is likely that the meetings will run over to the 28th.

Bird banding as a means of determining the movements of birds has been practiced for many years, but not until Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin, of Cleveland, Ohio, opened the field by combining banding with systematic trapping, had the results obtained anywhere near paid for the outlay in money and time. Mr. Baldwin's results clearly show that here is a means within the reach of any persons who can secure a permit to trap birds for this purpose, and who have sufficient knowledge of bird species to handle them intelligently, of adding facts of the greatest importance to our knowledge of the movements of the birds, and also to shed great light upon the breeding habits of such birds as permit handling during their breeding activities. Since the method approaches exactness it is far superior to bird watching in revealing certain habits which are connected with the breeding activities. While any one person will be able to learn many things worth while there are many other things that can be learned only by coöperation over a wide area. The U. S. Biological Survey furnishes the bands and the instructions that are necessary for the work, and is the clearing house to which all records are sent, both bands placed and bands found upon birds that have been caught. If you are interested in this line of work you would do well to write to the Chief of the Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., for information, which will be sent to you promptly.